GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3789
ANSWERED ON:30.04.2007
MORE ITEMS UNDER PDS
Bhakta Shri Manoranjan

Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has initiated a move for sale of other items like cooking gas, postal stamps etc. through Fair Price Shops;

(b) if so, the details thereof indicating the items likely to be sold therein;

(c) whether the Government has issued any guidelines to the States in this regard; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

MINISTER OF THE STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF THE STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD & PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (DR. AKHILESH PRASAD SINGH)

(a),(b),(c)&(d): There have been complaints from FPS owners about lower margin on PDS items. One of the findings of the Evaluation studies done on PDS was also that only with the margins allowed on PDS items, the Fair Price Shops could not be made financially viable. Therefore, the State Governments/UTs Administrations have been advised to allow FPSs owners to enlarge the basket of commodities by adding additional non-PDS items of daily use as per local requirement for sale. Some States also distribute additional items of mass consumption such as exercise books, pulses, iodised salt, tea etc. through the FPSs to make them financially more viable. For sale of other items like cooking gas, through FPS, the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas has not agreed with the proposal as it is not a practical proposition to put domestic cooking gas (LPG) in FPS as cooking gas (LPG) is a purely commercial good marketed by Government Oil Companies through their distributors appointed as per their commercial considerations. The issue of including the sale of Postal items through FPS has been taken up with Department of Posts recently to make the FPS economically more viable.